Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3101
406-542-5500
October 13, 2009

*Governor's Office, Attn: Mike Volesky, PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
*Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, POB 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
Website, Commission Secretary, Division Secretaries, Regional Office Managers, Region 2 Information Officer
*State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
*MT State Library, PO BOX 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800
MT Environmental Information Center, Attn: Jim Jensen, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624-1184
Pintler Ranger District, 88 Business Loop, Philipsburg, MT 59858
**DNRC, Anaconda Unit Office, 7916 Hwy 1 W, Anaconda, MT 59711
Skyline Sportsmen, PO Box 173, Butte, MT 59703
Anaconda Sportsmen, 2 Cherry St., Anaconda, MT 59711
Montana Natural Heritage Center, POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800
Montana Audubon Society, POB 595, Helena 59624-0595
Montana Stockgrowers, 420 N. California, Helena, MT 59601
Montana Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624-1175
Deer Lodge County Weed Supervisor, 800 S. Main, Anaconda, MT 59711
Deer Lodge County Commissioners, 800 S. Main, Anaconda, MT 59711
Anaconda-Deer Lodge Planning Department, 800 S. Main, Anaconda, MT 59711
Anaconda-Deer Lodge Planning Board, 800 S. Main, Anaconda, MT 59711
Five Valleys Land Trust, PO Box 8953, Missoula, MT 59807-8953
Safari Club International, Five Valleys Chapter, P.O. Box 16142, Missoula, MT 59808-6142
Anaconda Wildlife EXPO, Attn: Kim Jones, 206 East Park, Anaconda, MT 59711
Montana Chapter, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Attn: James Weatherly, POB 17731, Missoula, MT 59808-7731
Adjoining landowners

*Emailed notification of the availability of the EA
**Mailed a postcard notification of the availability of the EA

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to acquire a 29.74-acre parcel west of Anaconda in Deer Lodge County. Five Valleys Land Trust currently owns the property, which lies about 7 miles west of Anaconda and adjoins FWP's Blue-eyed Nellie Wildlife Management Area (WMA). If acquired, the property would become part of the Blue-eyed Nellie WMA. The purpose of this proposal is to secure a critical wildlife corridor for the Lost Creek bighorn sheep herd.

FWP will hold a public hearing in Anaconda on October 27 (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m. at the Lee Metcalf Center (115 E Pennsylvania Ave) to discuss this proposed acquisition and take public comment.

This draft EA is available for review in Helena at FWP's Headquarters, the State Library and the Environmental Quality Council. It also may be obtained from the Region 2 FWP Headquarters or viewed on FWP's Internet website at http://fwp.mt.gov ("Recent Public Notices").

Comments on this draft EA must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., November 12, 2009. Comments should be mailed to Ray Vinkey, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 1066, Philipsburg, MT 59858 or emailed to rvinkey@mt.gov. If you have questions, please contact him at 406-691-0130.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA around November 13th. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land purchase proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render final decision on this proposal at its December 10th meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

ML/sr

Enclosure: Moore EA (with Socio-economic Assessment and Draft Management Plan)